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adequate appropriation be made for that purpose.

*Nature* states that the Naples Academy of Physical and Mathematical Sciences offers a prize of 1000 lire to the author of the best memoir on the theory of the invariants of the ternary biquadratic form, preferably in connection with the conditions for splitting into lower form. The papers may be written in Italian, Latin or French, and must be sent in on or before June 30, 1904. In addition prizes are offered in connection with the legacy of Professor Luigi Sementini, who in 1847 left the sum of 150 ducats per annum 'to distribute it as a prize for three memoirs on applied chemistry which they shall judge the best, or to award it as a prize to the author of one single memoir containing great utility, or finally to give it as a life pension to the author of a classical discovery useful to sick mankind.' Competitors for this prize are invited to send in their applications, accompanied by manuscript or printed papers, not later than December 31, 1903.

MR. NEVILLE-ROLFE, British consul in Naples, refers in a report abstracted in the *London Times* to the widespread interest now being taken in Italy in the question of re-afforesting the country. In 1877 about four millions of acres were withdrawn from the operation of the old forest laws, as well as about one million acres in Sicily and Sardinia. The consequence was a reckless destruction of forests; and now it is generally admitted that the state must step in to save those that are left and to aid in replanting. The question now being discussed is what trees are to be used for the latter purpose. The Italian oak is of little use except for railway sleepers; there is plenty of chestnut all over the country, and pine-trees would grow luxuriantly and prove most useful. The cork-tree, however, appears to be the one which would prove economically the most valuable, and it has hitherto been almost wholly neglected in Italy. In 1900 the cork exported was valued at only £36,000, and much, no doubt, was used at home. But a few years ago Spain exported wine corks to the value of over a million sterling.

In Italy about 80,000 hectares of land are under the cork-tree, chiefly in Sicily and Sardinia; in Portugal, Spain and Algeria the areas respectively are 300,000, 250,000 and 281,000 hectares. The Calabrian cork forests have been almost wholly destroyed, the trees having been burnt for charcoal, and even Sicily now imports corkwood in considerable quantities. Seventy years ago nearly all the cork imported into England went from Italy. But since then most of the Italian forests have been destroyed for charcoal and to produce potash, and those that remain are being devastated for the same purpose; and no one thinks of replanting the ground, which naturally gets washed away owing to the absence of trees. Large forests containing a majority of cork-trees are continually being released from the forests laws, and there is a risk that the production of cork in Italy will soon cease. Nothing can replace cork in its manifold use, and now when vast quantities are used in making linoleum and in shipbuilding an adequate supply of it is of great economical importance.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE board of trustees of Stanford University held a meeting on April 25, at which the formal transfer of the property of the university to the trustees was considered. It is understood that the transfer will be made during the present week. Mrs. Stanford will be elected president of the board of trustees.

THE New Hampshire legislature has voted an appropriation of \$20,000 a year for two years to Dartmouth College.

AMONG the appropriations made by the state legislature to the University of Missouri there is one of \$7,500 for an addition to the new building occupied by botany, entomology and horticulture. The addition will be used for experimental work in botany along physiological, pathological and ecological lines.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has contributed \$12,000 toward the amount needed for the erection of Emerson Hall, the new philosophical building of which Harvard University hopes to lay the corner-stone on May 25, the centennial anniversary of Ralph Waldo Emerson's birth.

This gift was made through Professor Münsterberg, and it brings the total amount now subscribed for this building up to about \$140,000, or within \$10,000 of the total which the university corporation requires before it will permit the corner-stone to be laid.

THE new engineering building being erected at Brown University for the immediate use of the departments of Mechanical Engineering and Drawing will be ready for occupancy next September. The building is 72 by 84 feet, three stories high, and is designed so that a later addition of nearly equal size may be made to provide room for all the engineering departments.

THE Technical Education Board of the London County Council is offering for competition five senior county scholarships, together with a certain number of senior exhibitions. The scholarships are of the value of £90 a year, and are tenable, under ordinary circumstances, for three years at universities, university colleges or technical institutes, whether at home or abroad.

THE board of governors of McGill University have decided that the faculty of comparative medicine and veterinary science at the university shall cease to exist at the close of the present session. The reason given for this step is the impossibility of securing adequate funds for the reorganization of the faculty along the lines suggested by the governing staff of the university.

N. M. FENNEMAN, professor of geology at the University of Colorado and C. K. Leith, assistant professor of geology at the University of Wisconsin, have been appointed professors of geology in the latter university in view of the election of Professor C. R. Van Hise to the presidency.

At the annual meeting of the regents of the University of Nebraska on April 24 and 25, Frank G. Miller, of the Yale School of Forestry, was elected professor of forestry, his services to begin September next. The following promotions in scientific positions were announced: H. R. Smith, from associate professor of animal husbandry to professor of animal husbandry; J. H. Gain, from instructor

in animal pathology, to adjunct professor of animal pathology; F. E. Clements, from adjunct professor of botany to assistant professor of botany; G. H. Chatburn, from adjunct professor of mathematics and civil engineering to assistant professor of civil engineering; A. L. Haecker, from assistant professor of dairy husbandry to associate professor of dairy husbandry; F. W. Smith, from instructor in education to adjunct professor of education; R. A. Emerson, from assistant professor of horticulture to associate professor of horticulture; A. L. Candy, from adjunct professor of mathematics to assistant professor of mathematics; R. E. Moritz, from adjunct professor of mathematics to assistant professor of mathematics; C. C. Engberg, from instructor in mathematics to adjunct professor of mathematics; T. L. Bolton, from adjunct professor of philosophy to assistant professor of philosophy; C. A. Skinner, from adjunct professor of physics to assistant professor of physics; R. H. Wolcott, from assistant professor of zoology to associate professor of zoology; W. A. Willard, from instructor in zoology to adjunct professor of zoology; G. H. Morse, from associate professor of electrical engineering to professor of electrical engineering. Among other appointments are the following: H. H. Waite, to be assistant professor of bacteriology and pathology; H. L. Shantz, to be instructor in botany; R. S. Lillie, to be adjunct professor of physiology. Fellowships were announced as follows: G. G. Frary, chemistry; H. L. Shantz, botany; Esther P. Hensel, botany. G. F. Miles was announced as scholar in botany.

AMONG the members of the summer school of the University of California from other institutions will be Professor Palmer, of Harvard, in ethics, Professor Angell, of Chicago, in psychology, Professor Monroe, of Columbia, in educational method, Professor Palache, of Harvard, in mineralogy, and Mr. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Bureau of Forestry.

NORTON A. KENT, Ph.D., formerly assistant at Yerkes Observatory, is at present in charge of the department of physics at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana.